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MY LITTLE PONY

Season 9

Going to Seed

Ep 910

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TEASER**SC. 1 - EST. SWEET APPLE ACRES - MORNING**

A rooster <CROWS> as the sun breaks over the roof of the barn. It's another beautiful day on the farm.

SC. 2 - INT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, FARMHOUSE - SAME

A harried APPLEJACK looks to BIG MAC, APPLE BLOOM, and GRANNY SMITH, all sitting around the breakfast table looking stressed.

1 APPLEJACK

I know we've had this day marked on the calendar for quite a while. But it's finally here.

QUICK PANS as they all respond.

2 BIG MAC

Eeyup!

3 APPLE BLOOM

Sure is!

4 GRANNY SMITH

Eh?

CLOSE on Applejack as she turns to hang up a chart/map of the farm. Every tree's been circled in RED.

5 APPLEJACK

The Confluence. A harvest a hundred moons in the making, when every apple comes ripe at the same time.

(re: map)

Big Mac's been up late working on this schedule so we can be sure not to miss a single tree. All it'll take now is a few days hard work. Who's with me?

Applejack turns back to see Granny's gone and Big Mac is asleep, <SNORING> into his bowl of oats. Apple Bloom <GROANS>.

6 APPLE BLOOM

That looks like a lot of work.

Granny pops her head back into the kitchen.

7 GRANNY SMITH
Don't you worry none, youngin'!
We've got this Confluence under
control. I got us some help!

8 APPLEJACK
That's great! Twilight and the
others are too busy at the school
to lend a hoof. We could use some
more muscle. Who'd you get?
Braeburn? Honeycrisp?

9 GRANNY SMITH
Nah, them Appleloosan Apples got
their own Confluence to deal with.

10 APPLEJACK
Okay then, uh... Bulk Biceps?

11 GRANNY SMITH
Even better!

Granny steps aside to REVEAL GOLDIE DELICIOUS, a WRIGGLING
carpet bag on her back.

12 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
Howdy, y'all!!

Big Mac STARTS awake, flipping his plate up onto his head.
BACK ON Goldie, who now has a cat sitting on her head.

13 GOLDIE DELICIOUS (CONT'D)
Now *that's* how you wake a pony up!

Apple Bloom's eyes light up.

14 APPLE BLOOM
Goldie Delicious!

Goldie now has two cats on her back/head.

15 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
Granny told me y'all could use a
helping hoof with this here
Confluence so I came a runnin'!

She puts her bag down and cats spring out like snakes from a
peanut brittle can, dispersing to every corner of the room.

16 APPLEJACK
(hiding disappointment)
Well, with a harvest this big we're
grateful for all the help we can
get. (sotto) I guess.

17 BIG MAC
Eeyup!

18 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
It's too bad y'all ain't ever
caught the Great Seedling. He'd a
granted you a perpetual harvest,
Confluence or no.

Applejack and Big Mac both start chuckling.

19 APPLEJACK
The Great Seedling? Well, now, I
haven't thought about that old
mare's tale for years.

Goldie Delicious stares at the two of them.

20 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
The Great Seedling ain't no mare's
tale.

(to a rapt Apple Bloom)
He's a magical Earth spirit, all
the colors of the harvest, that
travels from farm to farm, daring
ponies to catch him. And those that
have the ingenuity are rewarded
with crops that are always in
bloom! (back to AJ) And he's as
real as you and me.

21 GRANNY SMITH
As I recall, Apple Bloom used to
love settin' traps for the Great
Seedling when she was a foal.

22 BIG MAC
(with a sweet laugh)
Eeyup!

23 APPLEJACK
Well, I'm pretty sure she's
outgrown the whole thing by now.
Right Apple Bloom?

WHIP PAN to find Apple Bloom digging through a chest. She's
pulled out goggles, rope, a net, and a big sack.

24 APPLE BLOOM
Or maybe I'm big enough now to
finally catch him! Who's with me??

OFF Applejack's surprised face and Goldie and Granny's
smiles...

END TEASER**MAIN TITLES****ACT ONE****SC. 3 - INT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, FARMHOUSE - RESUMING**

Apple Bloom looks around excitedly at her family.

25 APPLEJACK
(surprised)
Apple Bloom, you haven't hunted for the Great Seedling since you were little. Why would you wanna start again now?

26 APPLE BLOOM
The Confluence is so big, he's bound to show up. And if we catch him, he'll make all the apples ripe all the time! Right, Goldie?

She looks to Goldie, who nods.

27 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
That's right, young filly!

28 APPLE BLOOM
(to Applejack)
Just imagine! Sweet Apple Acres would be the busiest orchard in Equestria! Now if you'll excuse me, I've got work to do!

She trots out the front door, bubbling with excitement.

29 APPLEJACK
(calls after her, smiling)
Don't forget we have actual work to do too!

They all look after as Apple Bloom rushes off into orchard.

30 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
Nothing like a little filly enjoying the harvest.

31 APPLEJACK
I don't mind Apple Bloom havin' fun, but there's honest to goodness work to do that doesn't have a thing to do with an old legend.

32 GRANNY SMITH
(cutting her off)
Oh, quit yer worrywartin'. Apple Bloom can hunt for the Seedling all she wants. If you're so concerned about work, why don't you and your brother get to buckin' your own selves?!

Granny gestures to Big Mac, who's starting to nod off again. Applejack nudges him and heads for the door.

33 APPLEJACK
C'mon, sleepyhead. Granny's right. Let's get to work.

34 BIG MAC
(yawning)
Eeyuuuuu--up.

As the two of them exit...

TIME CUT TO:

SC. 4 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, ORCHARD - LATER

Applejack and Big Mac stand amidst several trees, baskets at the ready. Big Mac gives a tree a tremendous buck and a pile of apples fall, completely covering his baskets. He raises his eyebrows at AJ who accepts the challenge.

In a pivoting bucking maneuver, she manages to buck three trees without her back legs ever touching the ground. She looks at her collection of baskets and smiles back at her brother who's looking off screen. She follows his gaze and frowns.

35 APPLEJACK
As much as I appreciate her volunteering, I'm not sure how much help Goldie's gonna be...

WHIP PAN to Goldie and Granny stand on either side of the same tree, each bucking the trunk one leg at a time -- Goldie practically moving in slow motion.

36 GRANNY SMITH
...And Auntie Applesauce didn't even notice her teeth had fallen out again!

They share a <LAUGH>. Goldie slaps her knee, then gives another slow motion buck. A single apple falls. PAN UP to REVEAL it was knocked out of the tree by Goldie's cats.

37 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
Now that reminds me of the time
Dottie -- that's my cheetah --
found out where I keep the
catnip...

WHIP back on AJ and Big Mac.

38 APPLEJACK
I love hearin' her and Granny
spinning yarns, but it looks like
the harvestin's up to us. You're
gonna have to redo that schedule.

39 BIG MAC
Eeyup.

TIGHT ON Applejack as she pushes her baskets to the wagon.

40 APPLEJACK
And as much as I'd rather Apple
Bloom were helping, I guess there's
no harm in her hunting the Great
Seedling for a day, right?

Big Mac doesn't answer. Applejack turns to see he's fallen asleep against a tree.

41 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Big Mac!

42 BIG MAC
(STARTS awake)
Wha--!! (MUMBLES)

Big Mac stumbles back a few steps. There's a loud <TWANG>, and he's suddenly JERKED INTO THE AIR by a rope snare that was camouflaged by leaves and branches. He sways back and forth, dangling by his back legs, looking around to try to figure out what happened.

Apple Bloom jumps out from behind a tree, excited.

43 APPLE BLOOM
Gotcha!! (seeing it's Big Mac)
Awww. You ain't the Great Seedling!

44 BIG MAC
Nope.

OFF Applejack, shaking her head...

SC. 5 - EST. SWEET APPLE ACRES - NEXT MORNING

The same rooster <CROWS> again as the sun crests the horizon.

45 APPLEJACK (V.O.)
Let's go, everypony!

SC. 6 - INT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, FARMHOUSE - SAME

Applejack looks to the MAP of the orchard as she herds Granny and Goldie toward the door. Just a few sections of the farm have been CROSSED OFF.

46 APPLEJACK
We fell behind a bit yesterday, so
we need everypony at their best.

Goldie points over Applejack's shoulder.

47 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
If that's your brother's best we
might be done for.

Applejack turns to see Big Mac, eyes bloodshot and dragging his hooves. He gives her a new harvest schedule which she hands over the old one. A few trees are crossed out.

48 APPLEJACK
He was just up late working out a
new schedule so we can stay on
track.

Apple Bloom races down the stairs, full of energy.

49 APPLE BLOOM
I didn't sleep either! I was too
excited. I can't wait to see if I
caught the Great Seedling!!

She zips past Granny and Goldie, hurdles the clump of cats in the doorway, and disappears outside. Applejack turns to Goldie.

50 APPLEJACK
I hope you're ready to cheer Apple
Bloom up when her traps come up
empty, because we'll definitely
need her help today.

Before Goldie can even respond, Apple Bloom suddenly zips back into the house, even more excited than when she left.

51 APPLE BLOOM
Everypony, come quick! You gotta see!!

Apple Bloom pushes Granny and Goldie through the cats and out the door. Off Applejack and Big Mac sharing an intrigued look and following...

SC. 7 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, BARNYARD - CONTINUOUS

Applejack and Big Mac catch up to Granny, Goldie and Apple Bloom, who stand across the barnyard at the edge of the orchard.

52 APPLEJACK
What in blazes is all the excitement about??

53 APPLE BLOOM
Look!!

Apple Bloom points to the ground, where lines of different-colored apples swirl and cross each other in an intricate crop circle-type pattern. Apple Bloom turns to Goldie.

54 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
The Great Seedling did this, didn't he?!

55 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
Well, braid my tail! These sure look like Great Seedling tracks to me!

Apple Bloom prances around in excitement.

56 APPLE BLOOM
I knew it! He was here! The Great Seedling was here! Isn't that amazing, Applejack?!

57 APPLEJACK
Yeah, amazing...

OFF Applejack's dumbfounded look...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SC. 8 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, BARNYARD - RESUMING

CLOSE ON the swirling pattern of apples on the ground.

58 APPLE BLOOM (O.S.)
Isn't it beautiful?

GO WIDE to REVEAL Apple Bloom following one path of apples to where it meets another, twirling when she reaches the junction and then prancing back over to the group, excited.

59 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
I just can't believe the Great Seedling was really here!

60 APPLEJACK
Neither can I.

61 APPLE BLOOM
(to Goldie)
What do you think this means?

62 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
(mischievous)
Looks to me like a challenge. The Seedling wants you to know he was here and is daring you to catch him!

63 APPLE BLOOM
(excited)
You think I still have a chance?

64 GRANNY SMITH
Of course you do! You're an Apple, ain't ya?!

65 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
Why, if you set enough traps, you're bound to catch him!

Goldie winks at Apple Bloom, who vibrates with excitement.

66 APPLE BLOOM
You're right! And that's just what I'm gonna do! Look out, Great Seedling, here I come!

As Apple Bloom races toward the barn, Applejack turns to the others.

67 APPLEJACK
Goldie Delicious, now why would you go and do a thing like that?

68 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
A thing like what?

69 APPLEJACK
You know what I mean. We got enough work to do without you distracting Apple Bloom by making some apple tracks and pretending the Great Seedling did it.

70 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
I did no such thing!

71 GRANNY SMITH
(to Applejack)
What in tarnation would make you say a thing like that?

Points to Goldie.

72 APPLEJACK
Well, somepony did it and she sure seems to be enjoying this quite a lot.

73 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
I'm enjoying it because Apple Bloom's enjoying it! Didn't you see how excited she was?

74 APPLEJACK
(unconvinced)
Uh-huh. (to Granny and Big Mac) And I suppose you two didn't do it either?

75 BIG MAC
Nope.

76 GRANNY SMITH
A 'course not. (sarcastic) But I suppose it coulda been Goldie's cats. Why doncha ask them?

She points to Goldie's cats, who bat apples on the ground playfully. AJ frowns.

77 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
Have you considered that maybe it was the Great Seedling after all?

78 APPLEJACK
Very funny.

With that, AJ heads off after Apple Bloom. Granny turns to Goldie.

79 GRANNY SMITH
I swear, sometimes I think she's
part mule.

OFF Goldie's smile and Big Mac <CHUCKLING>...

SC. 9 - INT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, BARN - MOMENTS LATER

Applejack enters the barn and looks around for Apple Bloom, but doesn't see her anywhere.

80 APPLEJACK
(confused)
Apple Bloom?

Apple Bloom's head pop up behind a bale of hay.

81 APPLE BLOOM
Do you know where there's more
rope? I've got a lot of traps to
make if I'm gonna catch the Great
Seedling!

82 APPLEJACK
That's what I wanted to talk about.
I know you're excited, but we sure
could use your help today. Are you
sure you wanna spend time trying to
catch something that...
(gently)
...might not even be real?

83 APPLE BLOOM
What? But the Great Seedling is
real -- you saw the tracks! You
think those appeared all by
themselves?

84 APPLEJACK
I don't know who made the tracks,
but I don't think it was the Great
Seedling.

85 APPLE BLOOM
Why not?

86 APPLEJACK

Because the Great Seedling is just something to make the harvest fun for youngin's, and you're old enough now to know there's a time for fun and there's a time to help with the work.

87 APPLE BLOOM

But catching the Great Seedling is helping! He can make the trees blossom all the time!

Applejack sees the look of excitement on her sister's face and gives in.

88 APPLEJACK

Alright. How about this? If you help me with the harvest today, I'll help you set traps for the Great Seedling tonight. Deal?

89 APPLE BLOOM

You will? For real?!
(off AJ's nod)
WOO-HOOOO! Yes, it's a deal!

OFF the sisters, smiling as they bump hooves...

SC. 10 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, ORCHARD - DAY

PAN ACROSS a row of treetops until we hear a <WHAM> and one tree SHAKES violently, dropping all of its apples. DROP DOWN as they fall, filling Applejack's basket.

In the BG, Big Mac carries baskets to the wagon, while Granny and Goldie take turns bucking the same tree again.

A few of AJ's apples fall over the side of her basket and clump together. She looks to Apple Bloom and points at them.

90 APPLEJACK

Kinda looks like those Seedling "tracks," huh?

91 APPLE BLOOM

(rolls her eyes)
Sure, if there were hundreds of apples in a bunch of different lines.

92 APPLEJACK
Well, if enough apples fell, or got
knocked down -- by the wind, maybe,
or animals --

AJ looks up to see Apple Bloom and the rest of the family are
all giving her a "come on" look.

93 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
I'm just saying there's a lot of
possible explanations.

94 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
And one of them is the Great
Seedling!

95 APPLEJACK
And the rest of them ain't.

96 GRANNY SMITH
That's not what you thought when
you was a foal.

Apple Bloom looks from a suddenly embarrassed Applejack to
Granny Smith.

97 APPLE BLOOM
What does that mean?

98 GRANNY SMITH
Why, yer sister was plum loco about
catching the Great Seedling when
she was yer age, same as you are
now. Worse, even.

Applejack BLUSHES. Enjoying this, Goldie goads Granny on.

99 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
Is that so?? Do tell, Granny.

100 GRANNY SMITH
(to Apple Bloom)
Musta been the last Confluence, I
reckon. I was s'posed to keep an
eye on your sister, but she was
slipperier than an apple seed...

Everything GOES WAVY and we...

SC. 11 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, ORCHARD - DAY (FLASHBACK)

CLOSE ON YOUNG APPLEJACK, excitement lighting up her face as she races into a row of trees. WIDEN OUT to find YOUNGER GRANNY SMITH calling after her, trying to keep up.

101 YOUNGER GRANNY SMITH
Applejack! Get your flank back here. You're s'posed to be sorting in the barn!

102 YOUNG APPLEJACK
(calling back)
Sorry Granny, I gotta check my traps or the Great Seedling might get away!

Young AJ gallops off alone, then pulls up and looks around, confused.

103 YOUNG APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
Now, where'd I put that trap?

Young AJ steps forward and stops, then cautiously backs up -- and instantly falls into a pit covered with leaves.

Moments later, Younger Granny comes trotting through frame.

104 YOUNGER GRANNY SMITH
(muttering to herself)
Bust my seeds, where'd that youngin' get to?

As Younger Granny trots past, everything GOES WAVY and we...

SC. 12 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, ORCHARD - RESUMING

Laughing, Granny finishes her story as Goldie and Apple Bloom smile at a chagrined Applejack.

105 GRANNY SMITH
She spent the better half of the day stuck in that trap.

106 APPLEJACK
And missed out on helping with the harvest because I was chasing something for little foals. I felt guilty everypony else had to work harder because of me, so I decide right then and there I was too old to waste any more time on the Great Seedling.

107 GRANNY SMITH
(waves dismissively)
Aw, we finished the harvest just
fine, but we laughed about that
story for years.

108 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
<CHUCKLES> I'm still laughing!

Apple Bloom turns to her sister, understanding.

109 APPLE BLOOM
I'm sorry that happened Applejack,
but it won't if you and me set
traps together like you promised.
Plus we'll get 'em done twice as
fast and won't miss out on any of
the harvest!

Off AJ's widening smile as she has to admit Apple Bloom's
right...

SC. 13 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES - VARIOUS - MONTAGE

In a series of shots we watch as the sisters prepare to
capture the Great Seedling:

- APPLEJACK - ties off a rope that disappears into the trees,
then shows Apple Bloom how to check the tension.

- APPLE BLOOM - works on her own version, but as she tests
the tension, the trap is sprung, causing a BRANCH to fly
toward Apple Bloom, who ducks just in time, then looks up at
Applejack sheepishly.

- APPLEJACK - places the last leafy branch over a pit. As she
and Apple Bloom watch, a small woodland creature races away
from something across the leaves. Goldie's cats ENTER FRAME,
chasing after the creature, and they PLOP unceremoniously
into the pit. The girls rush over and stare into the pit,
trying not to laugh.

- APPLE BLOOM - carefully sets a rope snare down, then jumps
behind a tree, joining Applejack. As the two girls peer out,
Goldie Delicious walks through frame and over the rope
without incident.

CLOSE on the girls as they exchange confused looks. A WOOSH
from off-screen draws their attention back and we REVEAL --
Big Mac, hanging upside down from the rope, glaring at them.

As the two sisters roll on the ground LAUGHING we...

END MONTAGE

SC. 14 - EXT. FARMHOUSE - NIGHT

Applejack and Apple Bloom make their way to the house, still laughing.

110 APPLE BLOOM
It sure was fun setting up all those traps together.

111 APPLEJACK
I forgot what a good time it could be. (kidding) If any two ponies can catch the Great Seedling it's us.

112 APPLE BLOOM
I can't wait to check in the morning.

AJ turns to her sister.

113 APPLEJACK
Now, there's still plenty of harvesting to do, so promise me you'll help, even if all our traps are empty.

114 APPLE BLOOM
I promise-- so long as you're ready for the bountiful harvest The Great Seedling's gonna give us when one of our traps nabs him!

115 APPLEJACK
Deal.

OFF AJ, tousling her sister's mane as they head inside, HOLD ON the farmhouse as NIGHT RAPIDLY TURNS TO DAY...

SC. 15 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, FARM - NEXT MORNING

The rooster <CROWS> again, but this time Applejack and Apple Bloom are already rushing outside, Apple Bloom excitedly leading the way back to the orchard.

116 APPLE BLOOM
Come on, Applejack! If we hurry we can check every trap and still stay on schedule.

Applejack has Big Mac's MAP of the orchard and starts to unroll it to check their progress.

117 APPLEJACK
(impressed)
Now that's what I like to hea--
(sees something)
Whoa!!

The two of them stop short at the edge of the orchard again, looking awestruck. REVERSE to show that yesterday's "Seedling tracks" have multiplied exponentially -- intricate colored patterns of apples up and down as many rows as we can show.

118 APPLE BLOOM
I don't believe it!

Apple Bloom races off as Granny, Goldie and Big Mac approach, all looking equally stunned at the tracks.

119 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
This must've taken all night!

120 BIG MAC
Eeyup!

AJ just stares, speechless, as Apple Bloom returns.

121 APPLE BLOOM
Nothin'!

122 APPLEJACK
(not following)
Huh?

123 APPLE BLOOM
I checked all the traps near the tracks. Every one was sprung, but they're all empty!

124 APPLEJACK
(thinking to herself)
Every trap sprung. No way critters did this. Or the wind.
(revelation dawning)
I can't believe I'm saying this, but... maybe the Great Seedling really was here!

OFF the whole family turning to look at AJ in shock...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

SC. 16 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, BARNYARD - RESUMING

As the family stares at Applejack, Goldie steps forward with a smile.

125 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
So, you're finally ready to admit
the Great Seedling might be real?

Sill stunned, Applejack points to the Seedling tracks that crisscross the orchard.

126 APPLEJACK
I can't think of anything else that
coulda laid out these tracks and
sprung all our traps.

127 APPLE BLOOM
I told ya! And if he left this many
tracks behind, he's practically
beggin' us to catch him.

Granny looks around, overwhelmed.

128 GRANNY SMITH
I ain't never seen anything like
this before.

129 APPLEJACK
(manic)
Well, tell us what you have seen,
Goldie you too. We need to know it
all if we're really gonna catch
him!

130 GRANNY SMITH
If you wanna hear about the Great
Seedling, Goldie and I can talk
about him all day while we work!

131 APPLEJACK
Work?? Apple Boom and I don't have
time to work today -- We've gotta
set up traps in every row!! Even
the carrots, just to be sure!

Everypony pulls up short at this. Even Apple Bloom is surprised.

132 APPLE BLOOM
Yesterday you said the Great
Seedling was just something to make
the harvest fun for youngin's.

133 APPLEJACK
(with growing excitement)
That was before I thought we could
actually catch him.
(off Apple Blooms's
uncertain look)
Besides...

Applejack rushes over to where she left the MAP, scoops it up, then drops it open in front of a YAWNING Big Mac. Several more sections of the farm are crossed off, but there are several more to go.

134 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
...Big Mac, can make time in the
schedule for us to set traps,
right?

135 BIG MAC
Uh... Eeyup?

136 APPLEJACK
Great. Get to it. Apple Bloom and I
are gonna go capture us the Great
Seedling!

OFF the other's looks of shock as she and Apple Bloom rush off...

SC. 17 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, ORCHARD - DAY

Apple Bloom follows Applejack out from one of the rows where Big Mac stands with his map. Granny and Goldie buck an appleless tree in the BG.

137 APPLEJACK
All right! Just one more hill to
go.

The two of them stop short as they walk up to Big Mac, who looks down at the map, confused.

138 APPLE BLOOM
What's wrong, Big Mac?

Applejack looks over his shoulder.

139 APPLEJACK
Is this right?

140 BIG MAC
Eeyup.

AJ takes the map and looks at a section that hasn't been crossed off. She looks up to the corresponding trees to see they're totally bare.

141 APPLEJACK

But that doesn't make any sense.
How can all these trees be bare if
we haven't bucked 'em yet?

Goldie and Granny amble up.

142 GOLDIE DELICIOUS

Seems like more work of the Great
Seedling to me.

143 APPLE BLOOM

How'd ya mean?

144 GOLDIE DELICIOUS

The closer you get to catchin' the
critter, the more mischievous he
gets.

145 APPLEJACK

You're sayin' the Great Seedling is
taking our apples?

146 GRANNY SMITH

Sounds to me like he's trying to
throw you off the scent!

147 APPLE BLOOM

Well, it ain't gonna work!

As Big Mac walks up and down the rows comparing the map to the trees, AJ turns to Goldie.

148 APPLEJACK

Have you ever heard of anypony
actually getting him?

149 GOLDIE DELICIOUS

There are stories, but it's hard to
say for sure. He's quite the
trickster. Guess that's why the
reward is so great if you can trap
him.

150 APPLEJACK

Well, his tricks have given me an
idea!

(off AB's look)
(MORE)

APPLEJACK (CONT'D)

Setting traps is one thing, but I reckon if we keep watch over the trees that haven't been bucked, the Seedling won't know what hit him.

151 APPLE BLOOM

That's a great idea! (to the others) What do you say? Anypony else wanna stay up with us?

Granny and Goldie shake their heads.

152 GRANNY SMITH

An old pony like me needs her beauty rest, but you young 'uns have a good time.

153 GOLDIE DELICIOUS

My kitties can't sleep unless they're curled up on my haunches, but I can't wait to see the Great Seedling with my own eyes, once you catch him!

They look over to Big Mac to find him passed out under a tree, snoring, the map laying over his head. Applejack turns to her sister.

154 APPLEJACK

Guess it's just you and me!

OFF Applejack and Apple Bloom sharing an excited smile...

SC. 18 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, BARNYARD - EVENING

PAN ACROSS the barnyard -- every inch covered in trip wires, pits, snares and traps of all sorts -- to FIND Applejack and Apple Bloom peeking over top of one of the sheds, their faces covered in camo paint.

155 APPLE BLOOM

Too bad no pony else wanted to come out. But I'm glad we're doing this together.

She hunkers down into her sleeping bag and peers around as Applejack nods.

156 APPLEJACK

Me too. It's been a long time since I was on a real Seedling hunt, and this is the first time doing it with my little sister.

157 APPLE BLOOM
<YAWNS> When did you start tryin'
to catch the Great Seedling?

158 APPLEJACK
(thinks)
Shucks, I couldn't've been much
more than a foal. I remember our
parents tuckin' Big Mac and me in
and telling us all about the Great
Seedling. And I got so excited I
could barely sleep, so I--

159 APPLE BLOOM
<SNORING SOFTLY>

Applejack turns to see that the excitement of the day caught up with Apple Bloom. She pulls the sleeping bag up and tucks her little sister in.

160 APPLEJACK
Don't worry, sugar cube, I won't
let him get away.

OFF Applejack, scanning the perimeter intently...

DISSOLVE TO:

SC. 19 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, BARNYARD - NIGHT

The moon is higher and it shines down on both Apple sisters fast asleep in their sleeping bags. That is, until a <THWIP> from below causes Apple Bloom's eyes to BLINK OPEN.

161 APPLE BLOOM
<WHUH?>

She turns and looks out at the orchard, the trees and shadows taking on an ominous quality at night. She hears another <THWACK> and quickly gives Applejack a shake.

162 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
(whispering)
Applejack! Wake up!

163 APPLEJACK
(normal voice)
Huh? What is it?

Apple Bloom peers down at the trees below.

164 APPLE BLOOM
(whispering)
I think a trap went off!

Applejack's eyes go wide, excited.

165 APPLEJACK
Well, let's go check it out!

Off Apple Bloom's nervous face as AJ climbs down slowly...

SC. 20 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, ORCHARD - MOMENTS LATER

Applejack creeps through the trees, trying to look in every direction at once, Apple Bloom close at her side.

166 APPLEJACK
See anything?

Fear growing, Apple Bloom just shakes her head.

A LOUD <WHACK> sounds from ahead, and they see a STRANGE SHADOW CROSS a few rows up. Apple Bloom looks toward the shadow, more frightened than ever.

167 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
(sotto)
Don't scare him off. We gotta lead him into one of the traps.

168 APPLE BLOOM
(shaky whisper)
I'm not worried about scarin' him.

Not noticing how scared her sister is, Applejack tries to track the shadow. There's another <WHACK> right behind them and Apple Bloom turns with a startled <SCREAM>.

169 APPLE BLOOM (CONT'D)
I THINK THE GREAT SEEDLING'S
HUNTING US!

With that, Apple Bloom bolts. Applejack looks after her.

170 APPLEJACK
Apple Bloom? Wait!

Apple Bloom rushes through the rows, narrowly avoiding one of her own covered pits. Unfortunately, she side-steps right onto a SNARE and gets hoisted into the air.

As she bobs up and down there's another <WHACK> as a huge shadow passes by in the next row.

171 APPLE BLOOM
APPLEJACK!!!

Applejack suddenly bursts through the trees and manages to get Apple Bloom down as the shadow behind the rows moves closer -- rustling the leaves.

172 APPLEJACK
Come on!

The two of them take off through the row, tripping and stumbling their way until they are finally free of the tress, falling in the dirt of the barnyard.

Apple Bloom looks back in horror at the still rustling trees.

173 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)
LOOK!

Applejack turns back as a SHADOW steps out of the rustling trees and into the moonlight, REVEALING... it's Big Mac!

174 BIG MAC
<SNORING>

Sleepwalking, their brother drags ropes and nets from several sprung traps behind him.

175 APPLEJACK/APPLE BLOOM
Big Mac?!

The girls stare, confused, as the still sleeping Big Mac walks up to a tree and bucks it-- apples falling down into the over-flowing baskets strapped to his sides.

As he continues by, the apples drop behind him, leaving a trail in his wake. The girls stare down at the trail and realize this is where the "Seedling Tracks" came from.

176 APPLEJACK
He's been harvesting in his sleep
this whole time.

177 APPLE BLOOM
BIG MAC IS THE GREAT SEEDLING?!

Big Mac STARTS AWAKE at this, confused beyond belief to find himself outside with a net on his head.

178 BIG MAC
Wha-- Ahhh!!

He STUMBLES several steps as he tries to shake off the net, but springs yet another trap, this one a branch that SWINGS OUT and PINS him to the trunk of a tree, knocking apples everywhere. The girls rush up.

179 APPLEJACK
(trying not to laugh)
You okay, Big Mac?

180 BIG MAC
(not happy)
Nope.

OFF Applejack and Apple Bloom, losing their composure and LAUGHING HYSTERICALLY...

MATCHCUT TO:

SC. 21 - EXT. SWEET APPLE ACRES, FARMHOUSE - PORCH - NEXT MORNING

Granny and Goldie sit in rockers, also LAUGHING as Apple Bloom, Applejack, and the now-able-to-laugh Big Mac finish relating the story to them. Granny SLAPS her knee as Goldie's cats nervously navigate the fast-moving rockers.

181 GRANNY SMITH
I'll say one thing. Harvesting in your sleep is about the Applest thing a pony could do!

182 APPLEJACK
And thanks to all of Big Mac's late night work, we brought in the whole harvest with time to spare!

183 GOLDIE DELICIOUS
No wonder you were so tired all the time!

184 BIG MAC
Eeyup!

185 APPLE BLOOM
I'm glad we solved the mystery, but I'm a little disappointed. I really wanted to catch the Great Seedling before I get too old to try.

Applejack smiles at her sister.

186 APPLEJACK

You know what, sugar cube? You're never too old to be a filly. There'll always be work to do, but having fun together is something you never grow out of!

Everypony smiles as Goldie stands and starts off, her cats climbing up her and jostling for position on her back.

187 GOLDIE DELICIOUS

Well, looks like you don't need me anymore. Time to get home before Dottie gets in the catnip again.

AJ puts Goldie's carpet bag on her back and the cats leap in. The others follow as they head down the steps.

188 APPLEJACK

We're real glad you came, Goldie.

189 APPLE BLOOM

Sure are! Come back next year!

Goldie looks at the barnyard, back to normal except for...

190 GOLDIE DELICIOUS

Looks like you forgot to clean up the carrots.

191 APPLEJACK

(confused)

Big Mac wasn't harvesting the carrots. Just the apples.

The others look over quizzically. Sure enough, there's a sprung trap (an empty net) at the end of the row of carrots, and several carrots have been uprooted and laid out in an intricate "Seedling Track" design.

Applejack and Apple Bloom look at Big Mac, who shrugs, then look at each other, beaming with excitement.

192 APPLEJACK (CONT'D)

You know what this means??

193 APPLE BLOOM

Time for another hunt!!

194 APPLEJACK

Look out Great Seedling. Here we come!

GO WIDE as Applejack and Apple Bloom race off to the carrots,
excited. As the rest of the Apple Family look on we...

FADE OUT

END